



Nebraska Supplement

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I said in last month's publication, that would probably be my last entry. Funny how things go! At this time I am the Most Junior Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Nebraska. I have asked the sitting Grand Commander, SK A.J. Johnson, to allow me to write this month's edition. We have to produce these articles two (2) months in advance, however the Sir Knights in Nebraska completed a herculean event which to me was the perfect example of the old operative Knights Templar saying: Navare operam Quid impedit (Latin: Do your duty, come what may!). I was so proud and impressed about this that I wanted to write this article and share our story! Twice a year the Nebraska York Rite College conducts two (sometimes four) York Rite ceremonial festivals, to perform the degrees and conduct the Orders of the York Rite. Towards the end of 2020 our Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, when certain conditions were met, allowed the orders to be performed in a manner promoting safety for all involved. One condition was this state's local CDC declaring it "Green" (You can see them online). Let me explain why this is important. According to our Grand Master's current General Order for COVID-19, Nebraska, and many other states, were in "Phase 1" of the general order. Thus the Orders given at the festival would have been extremely limited to just presenting a couple of lectures. Yet the other bodies, Chapter and Council would be able to conduct their degree work, while following the CDC guidelines. Because Nebraska was declared "Green" we then fell into "Phase 2" of the general order, and were able to conduct the Orders while still following the CDC guidelines (Masks and Social Distancing). What makes this, in my opinion, a herculean



event, is the fact that I, as the sitting Grand Commander, gave permission to conduct the full Orders, within the CDC guidelines, only three (3) weeks before the event! Now keep in mind that the degree team had not conducted the Orders for over a year and a half, and now they only had 3 weeks to refresh/memorize the Orders along with the other parts they may have to play in the degrees of the other York Rite Bodies! What a challenge to overcome!

Navare operam Quid impedit. The Council degrees and the Knights Templar Orders were conducted/given on Saturday March 27, 2021. These were the most impressive presentations of the Orders I have ever seen! Were they perfect ... no. Was the work completely memorized ... no. Was the work heartfelt and completely sincere ... YES! On that day we welcomed fifteen new Knights Templar into Commandery. These fifteen are so lucky to have received the Orders presented on that day! This is proof positive that our Sir Knights in Nebraska were truly following the old operative Knights Templar saying Navare operam Quid impedit! COVID, in one form or another has touched us all. On that day it did not!

LaVern J (Joe) Work (II)
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